

Services for Transition-Aged Youth

Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Presentation to

The Legislative Program Review and
Investigations Committee

Commissioner Joette Katz

October 3, 2013

- Using the principles of results-based accountability (RBA), the Department of Children and Families (DCF) will work with Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee staff to assess DCF services to prepare youth aging out of state care by answering the questions: *How much did we do? How well did we do it? Is anyone better off?*
- This presentation provides an overview of DCF services for adolescents, DCF Post-Secondary Education Services, transitions to other state agencies, and DCF's Reentry program.
- We look forward to a collaborative and informative process that will help ensure young adults leaving DCF care are prepared for future success.

CTKids report card

Population Level Results Statement:

**All Connecticut children grow up in
stable environments, safe, healthy
and ready to succeed**

**DCF contribution to the CT Results
Statement: All children served by DCF
grow up healthy, safe, smart and strong.**

HEALTHY

Age-appropriate development
Healthy weight
Optimal receipt of health services
from prevention through treatment
Good mental health

SAFE

Child abuse/neglect numbers and rates
Re-entry numbers and rates
Parental functioning broadly defined
Abuse IDd by ER medical staff

SMART (Future Success)

Entry to kindergarten readiness
Reading at "goal" in 3rd grade
Grade level school performance K-12
On-time high school graduation rate
Post-secondary training, education or
employment

STRONG (Stable)

School attendance
Multiple placements or family homelessness
Parental substance abuse
Domestic violence or mental illness
Parental education level

DCF Strategic Plan

**■ Strategy 5: Address the needs of
specific populations including:**

- Older youth transitioning to young adulthood,
including committed delinquents, youth who
transfer to adult services in other Connecticut
state departments, and cross-over youth

Services for Adolescents Committed to DCF

Adolescent and Juvenile Services

- The Department of Children and Families provides each adolescent in our care with opportunities to connect to:
 - community
 - cultural resources
 - personal resources
 - educational opportunities to nurture their success.

...Adolescent and Juvenile Services

- These opportunities include:
 - Academic opportunities
 - vocational and life skills programs
 - job training, and career exploration programs;
 - safe, stable housing opportunities,
 - health and mental health services in their communities;
 - connections to lifelong family, peers and caring adults.

How are We Doing?

- RBA Report Cards for multiple program types
- Trends moving in the right direction
- Identify areas for focus
- Have led to strategies for improvement
- We will continue to focus on client outcomes and report to Legislative Appropriations RBA sub-committee

Transition-Aged Youth Committed to DCF

DCF's emerging adults in care

Emerging adults aged 18-23 receiving DCF services:

- High School Adult Education or GED Programs
- Post secondary education programs
 - college, university, vocational, job corps, employment training
- Transitioning to DDS
- Transitioning to DMHAS
- C.H.E.E.R. work to learn experience leading to a sustainable career
- Juvenile Justice placement

Post Secondary Education Services How are we doing? 2010 Update:

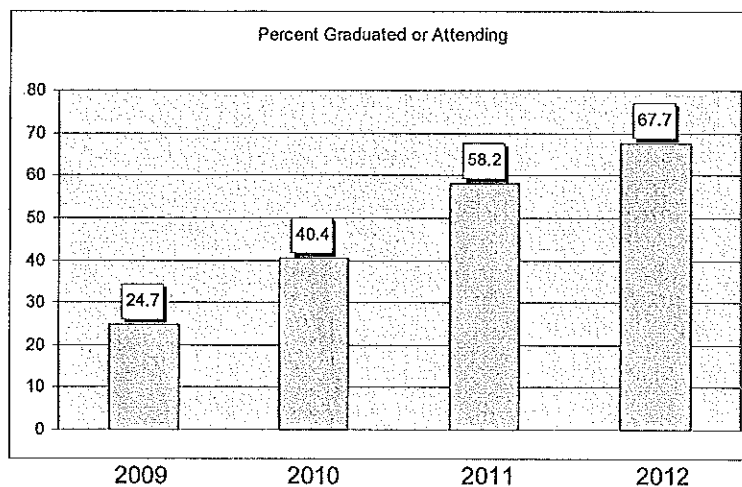
■ How much did we do?

2010: 257 young adults enrolled in PSE

■ How well did we do it?

- 44% remained enrolled and involved in school
- 56% did not remain in the program:
 - 26 (10%) “changed their mind” in attending a PSE path after graduating high school
 - 81 (32%) were discharged: unable to comply with policy and procedures
 - 31 (12%) sign out of care prior to completing pse
 - 11 (4%) transferred to DHMAS/DDS after unsuccessful participation

Is anyone better off? Percent graduated or still attending:



What are we learning?

- Our success rate is better than the national average, but we can do better
- Strategies for the upcoming years include:
 - Increasing the number of clients who are successful in the Post Secondary Education program by:
 - assuring clients are prepared for college level work
 - employing the latest scientific approaches to aptitude and interest assessment and career matching
 - providing supports so more clients stay in post secondary education
 - increasing the number of post secondary services available for clients who want training, but don't want to go to college

Young Adults Reentering DCF after age 18

- DCF initiated its reentry program in 2002, and is one of only 15 states with a re-entry program
- 2012:
 - 89 inquiries
 - 36 completed applications
 - 6 referred to other agencies for more appropriate services
 - 2 Referred and transferred to DHMAS
 - 2 Referred and accepted to Job Corp
 - 2 Referred and accepted to Supportive Housing Program
 - 30 were approved for reentry:
 - 14 enrolled in 2 or 4-year college programs
 - 12 enrolled high school, adult education or GED programs
 - 3 entered vocational programs
 - 1 entered a machinist program

Committed Youths Transitioning to Other State Agencies

FY2012:

159 transferred to DMHAS or DDS:

127 transferred to DMHAS

32 transferred to DDS

Clients Transitioning to Other State Agencies

■ Transition to DMHAS/DDS

- Formal screening process identifies youth at age 15 (unless previously identified for DDS)
- Transition planning begins at age 16, through regular interagency meetings
- Transition occurs between age 18 and 21 depending on individual circumstances
- Ability for shared case management between 18 and 21

...Clients Transitioning to Other State Agencies
(point of time data as of 9/27/13)

Service	DDS(83)	DMHAS(187)
Group homes	45%	24%
Residential treatment	12%	13%
Foster care	32%	27%
Adolescent Services	0	12%
Temporary Settings	4%	6%
Other Community Settings	7%	18%

...Clients Transitioning to Other State Agencies

- Transitioning youth living in a family setting have access to community behavioral health services during transition, including:
 - Evidence based in-home models
 - Outpatient services and Extended day treatment
 - Respite care
 - Family advocacy
 - Emergency mobile psychiatric services
 - Psychiatric hospitalization
 - Therapeutic support/behavioral management services

Efforts to Improve Successful Transitions to DMHAS and DDS

- Life Skills Pilot
 - Pilot between one DCF Area Office and DMHAS
 - Expand to other offices/statewide
- Exploration and adoption of models for individualized vocational programming for youth with special needs

Efforts to Improve Successful Transitions to Adulthood

- Aptitude, assessment and career matching process
- Gang/veteran program
- Career Pathways collaborative
- Improved permanency planning and casework
- Life Skills Pilot
 - Pilot between one DCF Area Office and DMHAS
 - Expand to other offices/statewide
- Exploration and adoption of models for individualized vocational programming for youth with special needs